

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A knife holder for a microtome having a cutting plane, comprising:

a knife having a cutting edge, said cutting edge defining a cutting plane, wherein said knife is disposed on one side of said cutting plane, and

a blade guard comprising a plate,

wherein said plate is arranged on [a side of said knife remote from a specimen] the same side of said cutting plane as said knife and is spaced apart from said cutting plane to the side of [said cutting edge of] said knife in such a way that in a functional position of said blade guard in a cutting direction a small gap is provided between said cutting edge of said knife and the edge of said plate toward said knife with a maximum width chosen such that the joint of a person's finger cannot come into contact with said cutting edge of said knife.

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Claim 2 (Original): The knife holder according to claim 1, wherein said plate extends parallel to and is spaced apart from a surface of said knife.

Claim 3 (Original): The knife holder according to claim 1, wherein said plate comprises a transparent material.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The knife holder according to claim 1, further comprising a base member, wherein said plate is arranged pivotably or displaceably on said base member.

Claim 5 (Original): The knife holder according to claim 4, further comprising a switch, wherein said plate is coupled to said switch.

Claim 6 (Original): The knife holder according to claim 1, wherein said plate has a functional position covering said cutting edge, in which said plate is spaced apart from said cutting edge.

Claim 7 (Original): A microtome comprising a knife holder according to claim 1.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The microtome according to claim 7, further comprising a switch, a brake or arresting device, and a knife slide or specimen slide, wherein said switch is coupled to said brake or arresting device for said knife slide or specimen slide.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The microtome according to claim 8, further comprising a circuit that includes a motorized cutting drive, wherein said switch is arranged in said circuit that includes said motorized cutting drive.

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Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The microtome according to claim 8, further comprising a control panel with switching elements thereon, wherein said switch is connected in series with said switching elements on said control panel.

Claim 11 (New): The knife holder according to claim 1, further comprising a base member, wherein said plate is arranged displaceably on said base member.

Claim 12 (New): The knife holder according to claim 11, further comprising a switch, wherein said plate is coupled to said switch.